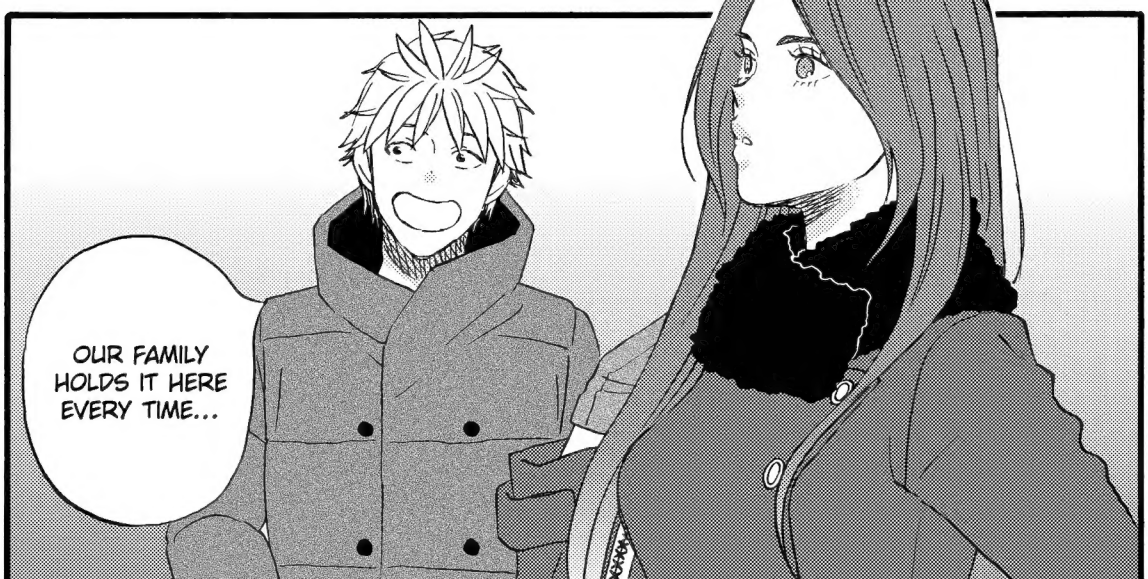
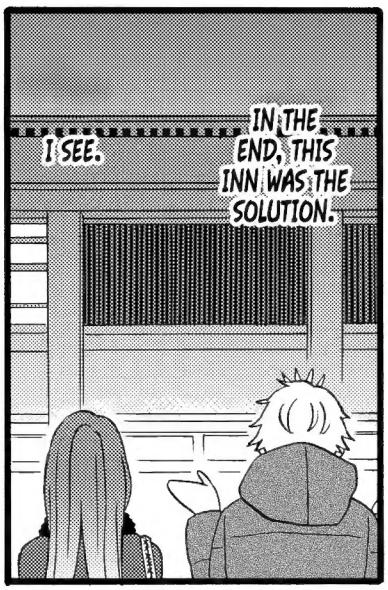
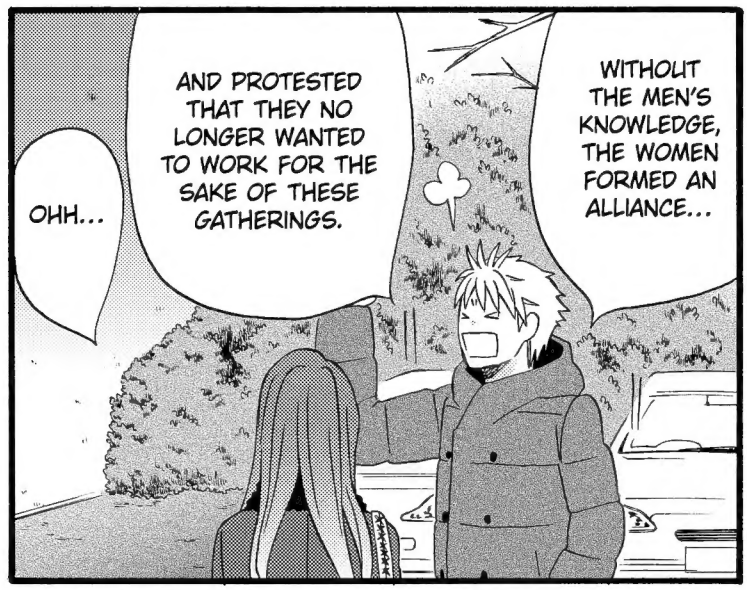
A FAMILY GATHERING, HUH...?
I DON'T HAVE MANY RELATIVES, SO I COULDN'T IMAGINE WHAT IT'D BE LIKE. BUT...

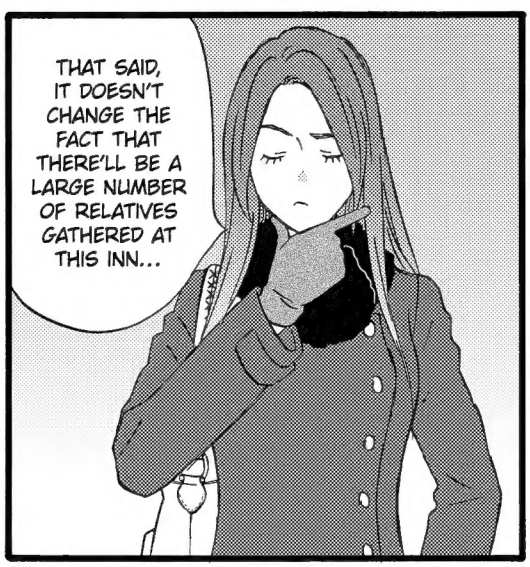
Chapter 37: Ishimura-san And The Kirishima Family, Part I
I DIDN'T EXPECT IT TO BE HELD IN AN INN...
Cypress Inn

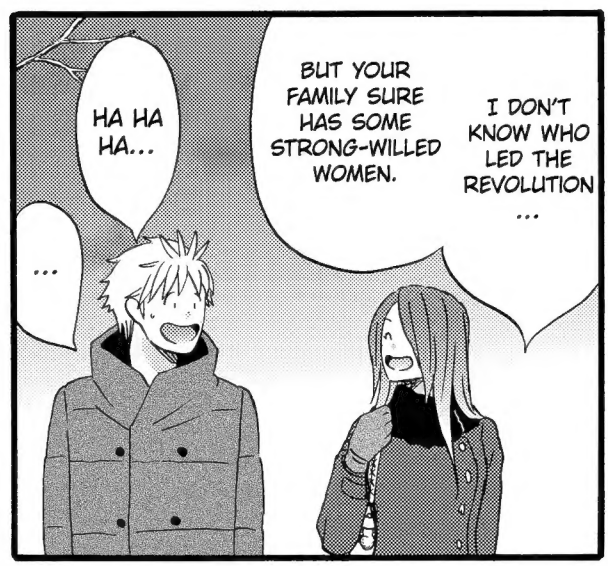

OUR FAMILY HOLDS IT HERE EVERY TIME...

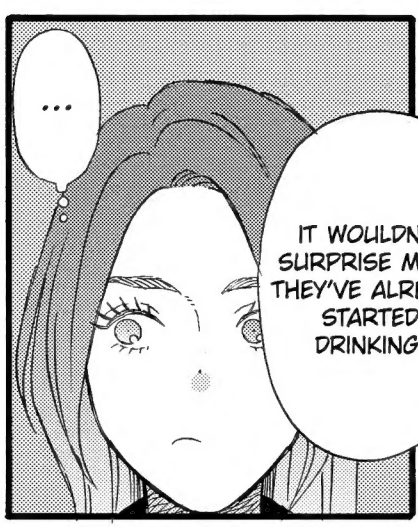
IS THAT SO?
MORE THAN HAVING A LARGE FAMILY, THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE MAJORITY OF THEM DRINK ALCOHOL.
HMM...
DO YOU HAVE THAT MANY RELATIVES?
SO NO ONE HAS TO GO TO THE TROUBLE OF PREPARING THE PARTY.
OH, MAKES SENSE.
YEAH... SO WHEN PEOPLE LIKE THAT GET TOGETHER, IT PRETTY MUCH BECOMES A PARTY.
THERE'S ALWAYS BOOZE, SNACKS, AND OTHER STUFF AVAILABLE AT AN INN...
A BOYCOTT?!
THERE WAS EVEN A COLLECTIVE BOYCOTT ONCE.
IF WE DIDN'T DO IT AT AN INN, THAT TROUBLE WOULD ALWAYS FALL ON THE RELATIVES' WIVES...

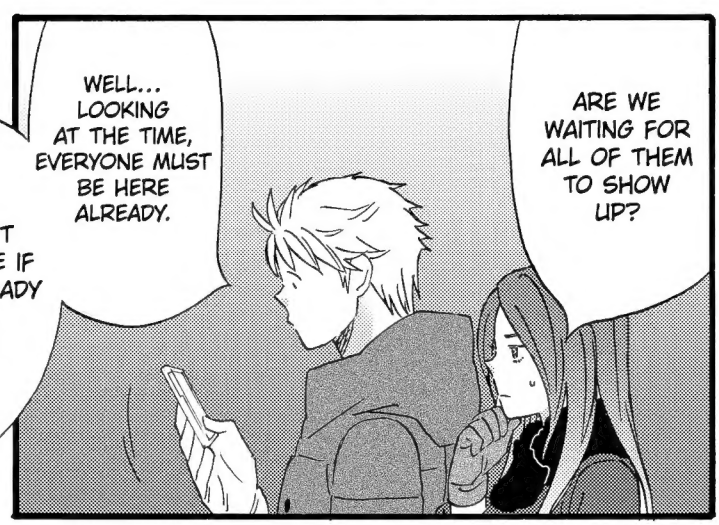

I SEE.
IN THE END, THIS INN WAS THE SOLUTION.

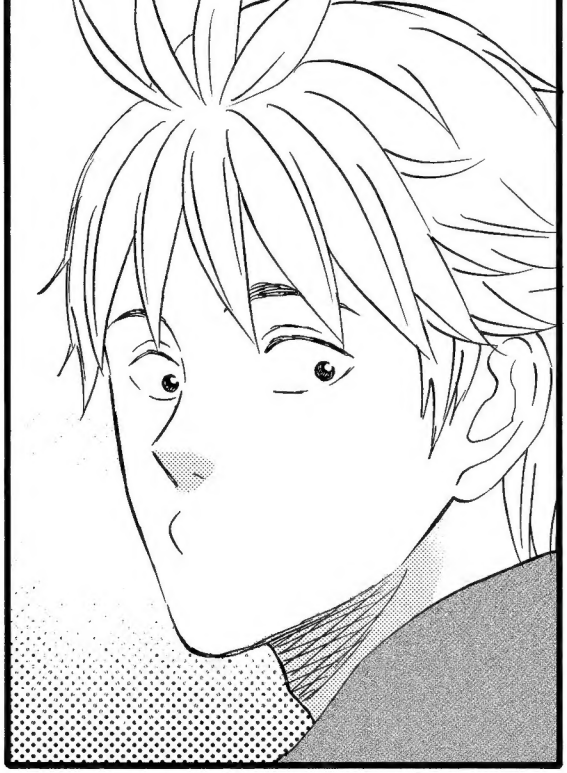

OHH...
AND PROTESTED THAT THEY NO LONGER WANTED TO WORK FOR THE SAKE OF THESE GATHERINGS.
WITHOUT THE MEN'S KNOWLEDGE, THE WOMEN FORMED AN ALLIANCE...

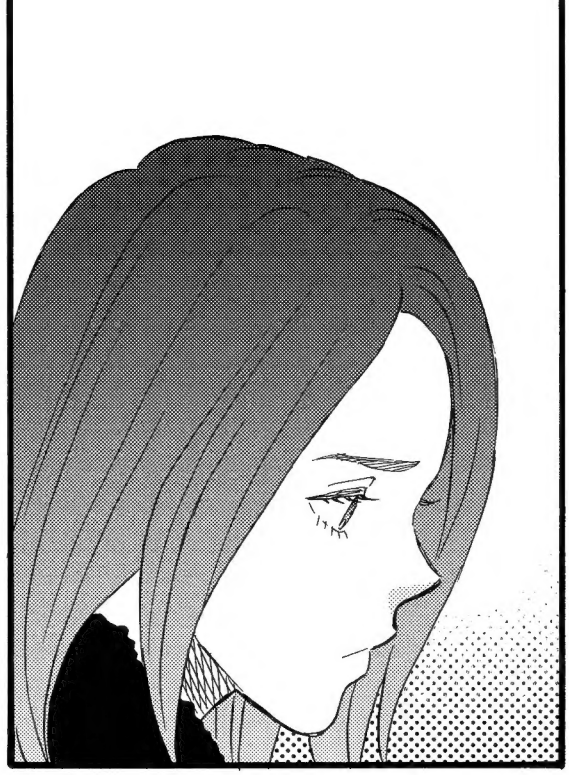

THAT SAID, IT DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT THERE'LL BE A LARGE NUMBER OF RELATIVES GATHERED AT THIS INN...

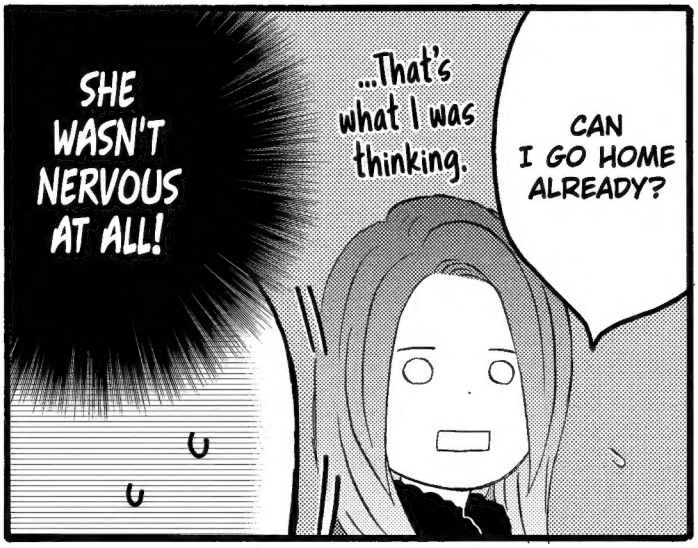

...
HA HA HA...
BUT YOUR FAMILY SURE HAS SOME STRONG-WILLED WOMEN.
I DON'T KNOW WHO LED THE REVOLUTION ...

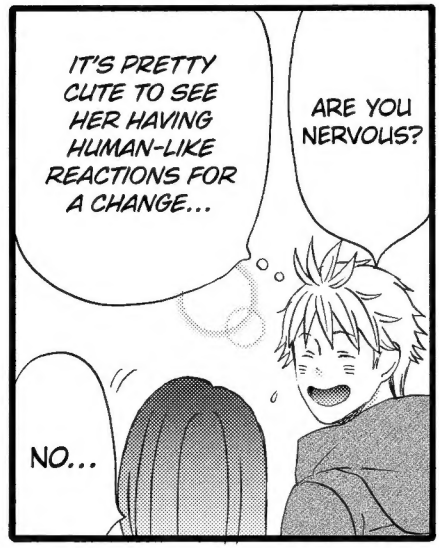

...
IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF THEY'VE ALREADY STARTED DRINKING.


WELL... LOOKING AT THE TIME, EVERYONE MUST BE HERE ALREADY.
ARE WE WAITING FOR ALL OF THEM TO SHOW UP?

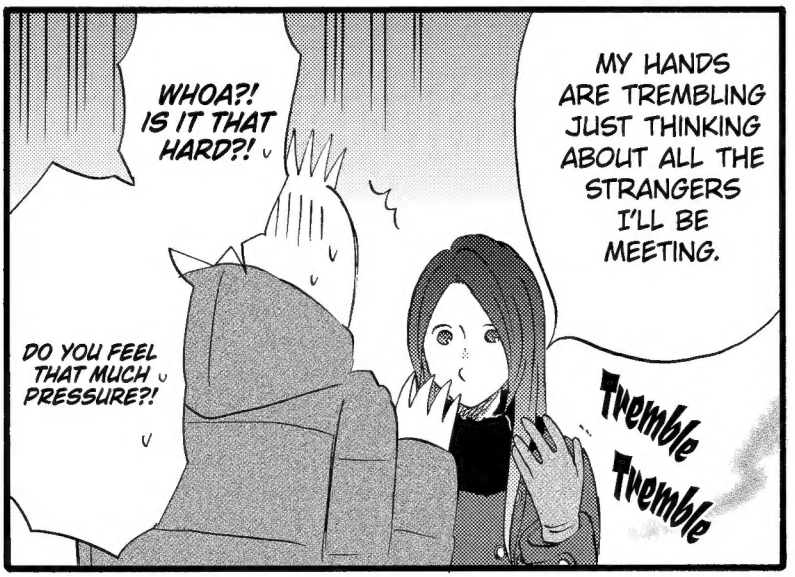




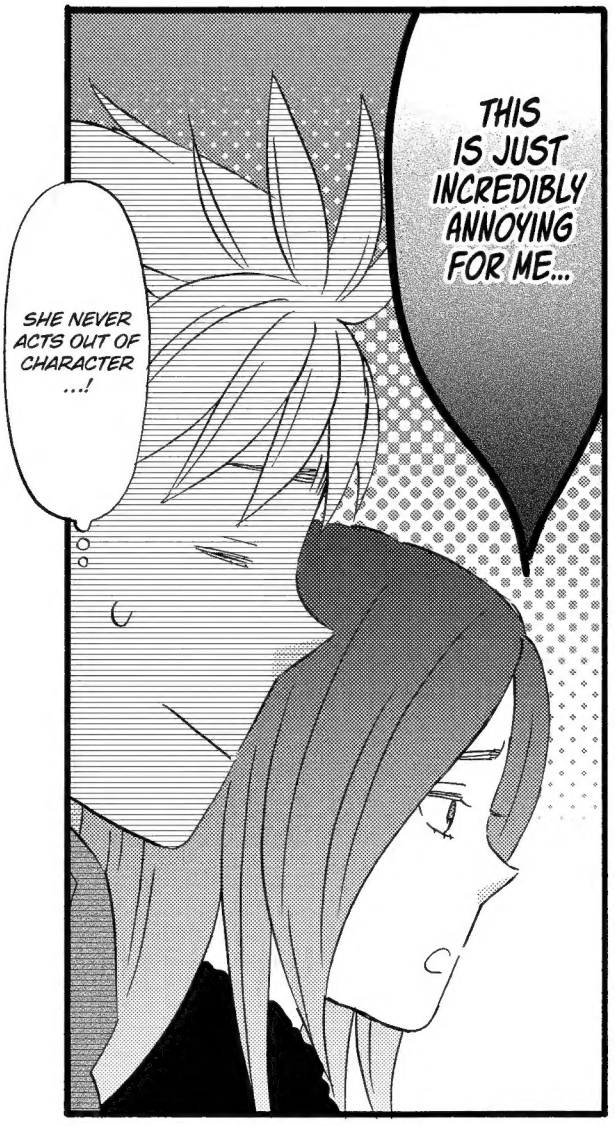

SHE WASN'T NERVOUS AT ALL!
...That's what I was thinking.
CAN I GO HOME ALREADY?

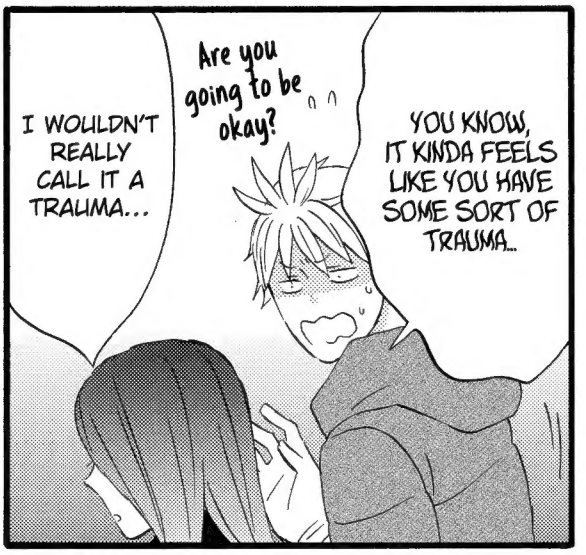

IT'S PRETTY CUTE TO SEE HER HAVING HUMAN-LIKE REACTIONS FOR A CHANGE...
ARE YOU NERVOUS?
NO...

YOU SOUND LIKE A SHUT-IN WHO HAS JUST STEPPED OUTSIDE FOR THE FIRST TIME...!
IT TOOK A LOT OF WILLPOWER FOR ME TO GET HERE. I WISH YOU'D RECOGNIZE MY EFFORTS.
I AM DOING MY ABSOLUTE BEST, THOUGH.
Come on...!
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU'D DO YOUR BEST FOR ME?!

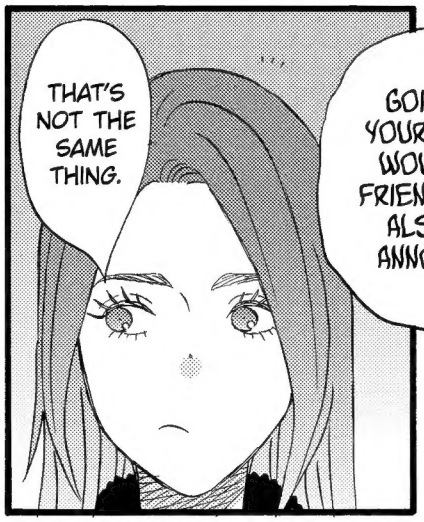

WHOA?! IS IT THAT HARD?!
DO YOU FEEL THAT MUCH PRESSURE?!
MY HANDS ARE TREMBLING JUST THINKING ABOUT ALL THE STRANGERS I'LL BE MEETING.
Tremble
Tremble

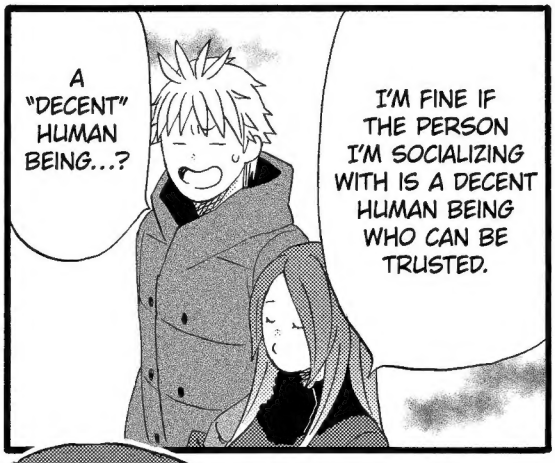
FLIP
LOOK.


THIS IS JUST INCREDIBLY ANNOYING FOR ME...
SHE NEVER ACTS OUT OF CHARACTER ...!


I WOULDN'T REALLY CALL IT A TRAUMA...
Are you going to be okay?
YOU KNOW, IT KINDA FEELS LIKE YOU HAVE SOME SORT OF TRAUMA...

I MEAN...
I'VE TOLD YOU...
COUNTLESS TIMES...

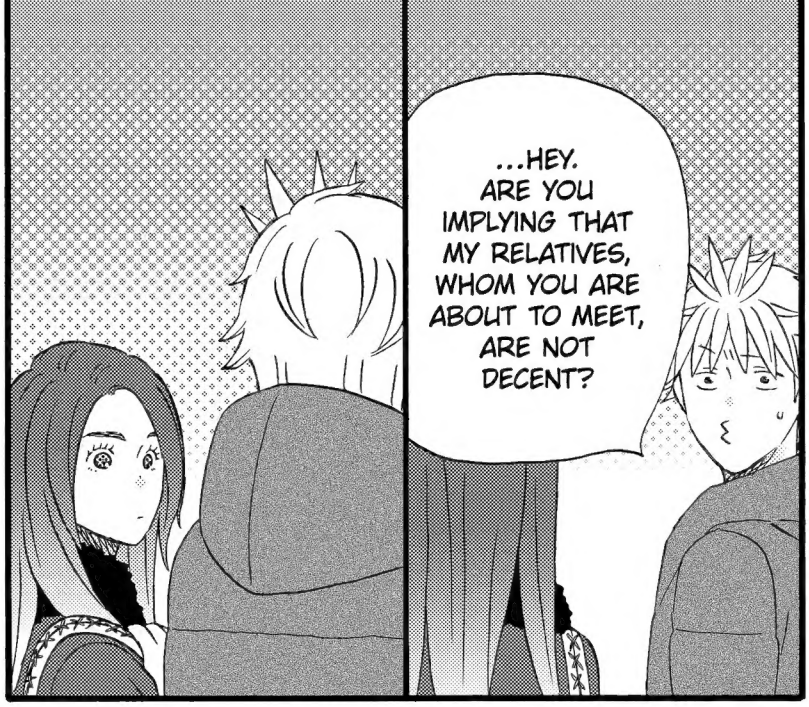




HOW IRONIC THAT A SOMEWHAT INDECENT PERSON IS SAYING THIS...

I want to spend as little time as possible with indecent people!

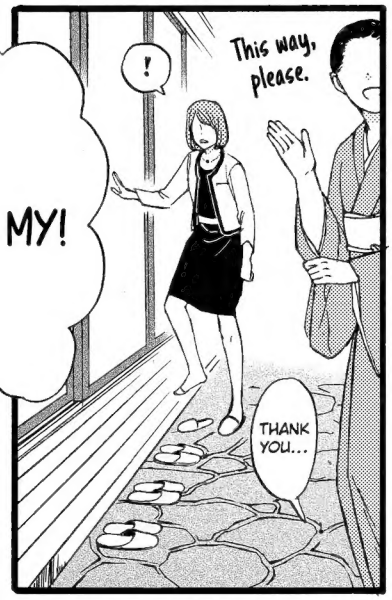
THAT THE NUMBER OF DECENT PEOPLE IS SURPRISINGLY SMALL, BUT THE NUMBER OF INDECENT PEOPLE IS SURPRISINGLY LARGE!

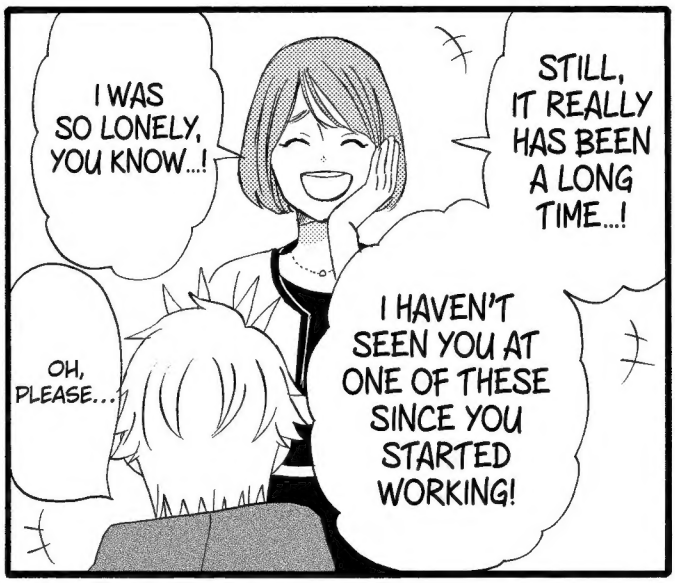

...HEY. ARE YOU IMPLYING THAT MY RELATIVES, WHOM YOU ARE ABOUT TO MEET, ARE NOT DECENT?

...

LET'S GO IN.
HEY! ANSWER ME!
HEEEY! ISHIMURA-SAN?!

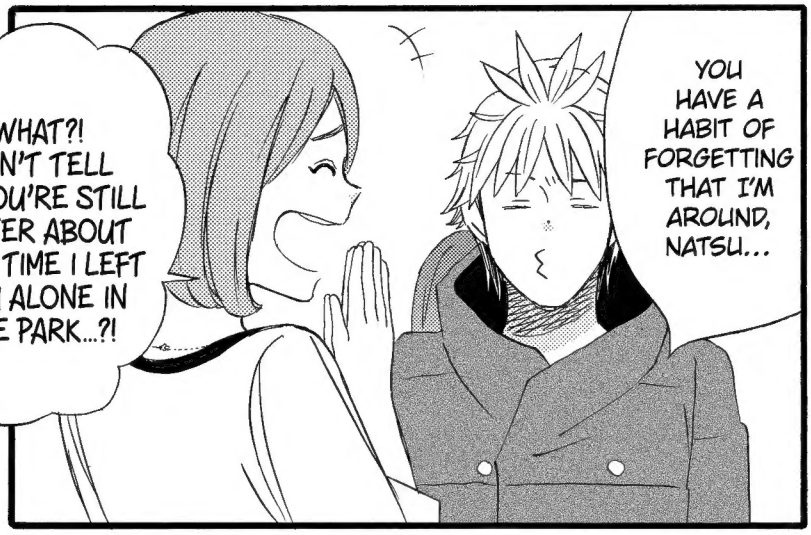
YOU CAME, SHIROU-KUN!
OH, MY!

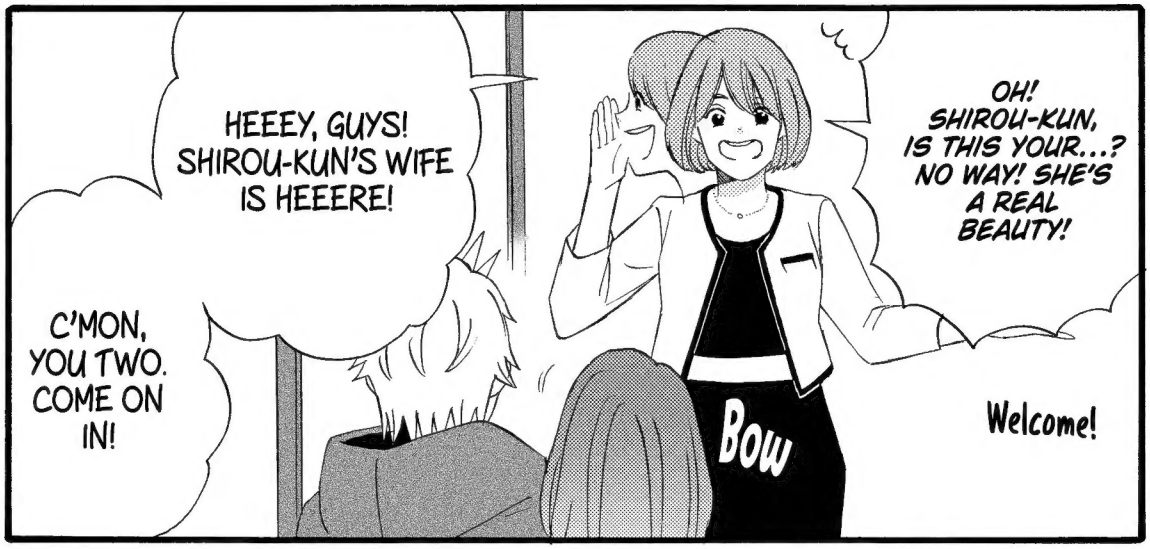

This way, please.
!
THANK YOU...

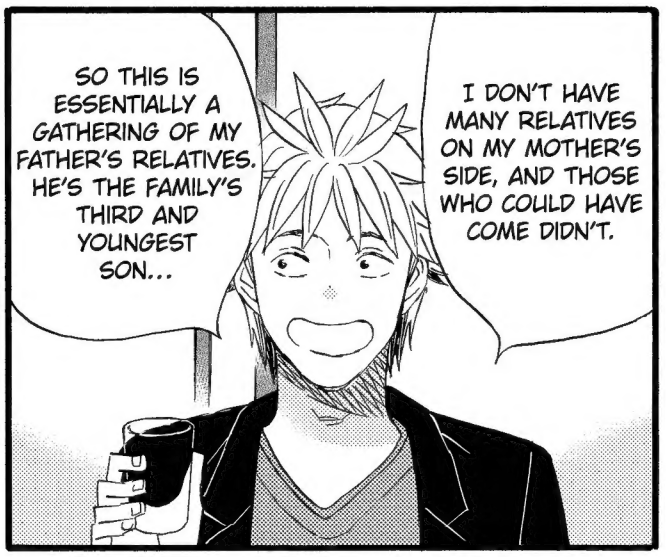

I WAS SO LONELY, YOU KNOW...!
STILL, IT REALLY HAS BEEN A LONG TIME...!
OH, PLEASE...
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AT ONE OF THESE SINCE YOU STARTED WORKING!

IT'S OKAY. I FIGURED THAT WOULD HAPPEN.
I'M SORRY... THOSE GUYS COULDN'T WAIT ANY LONGER, SO THE PARTY HAS ALREADY STARTED!
Ha ha ha ha!

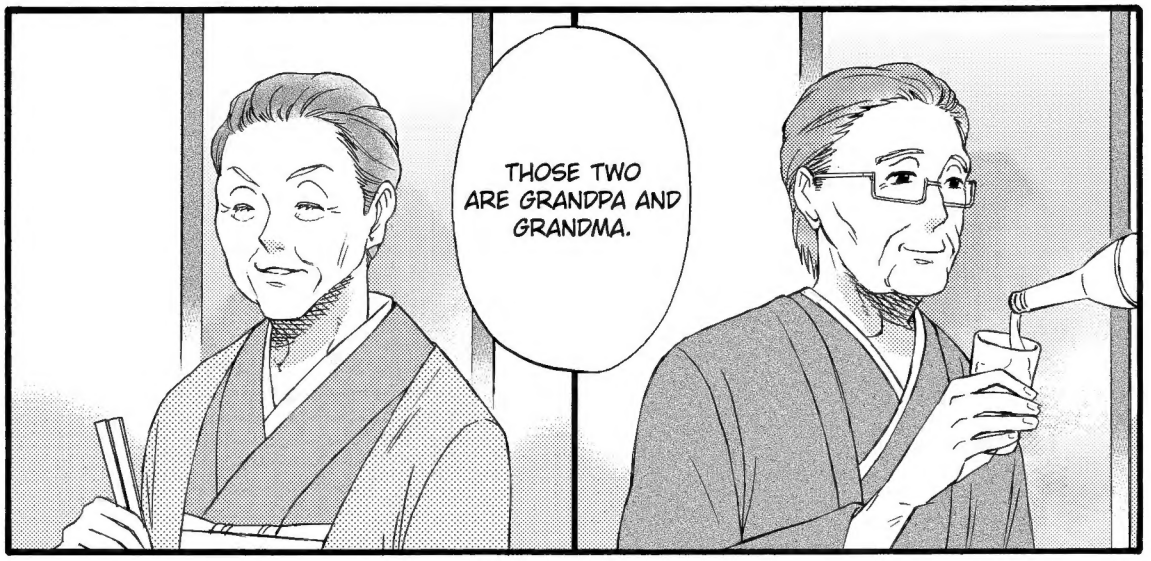
...
Ha ha ha!

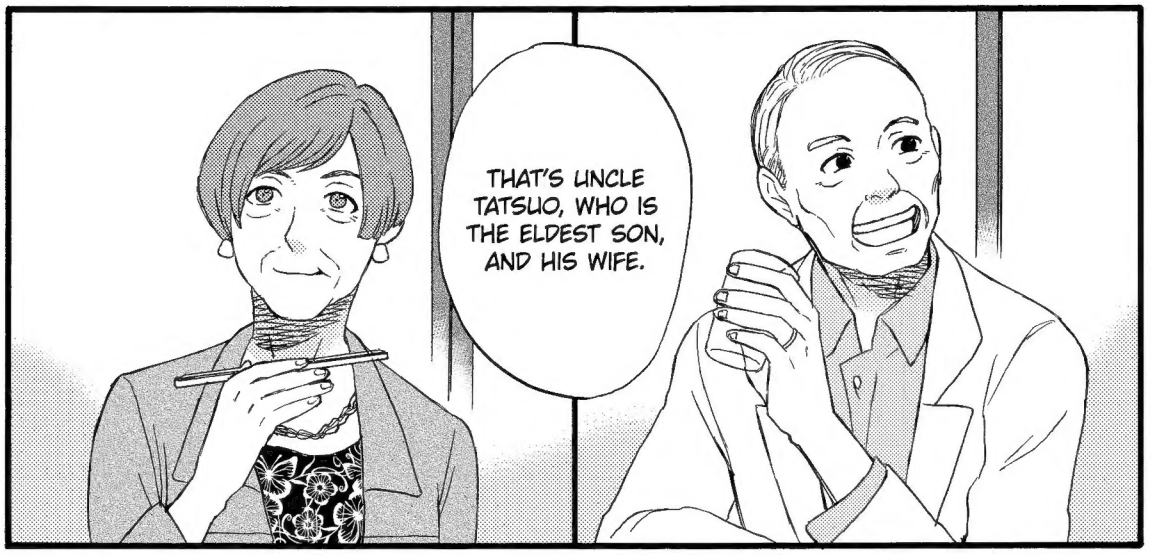

WHAT?! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE STILL BITTER ABOUT THAT TIME I LEFT YOU ALONE IN THE PARK...?!
YOU HAVE A HABIT OF FORGETTING THAT I'M AROUND, NATSU...

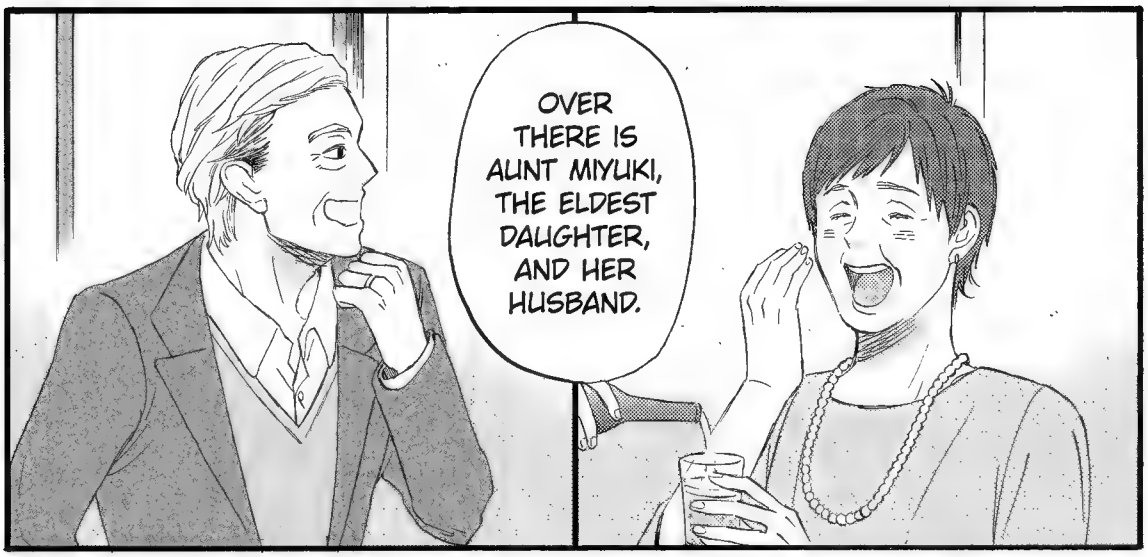

HEEEY, GUYS! SHIROU-KUN'S WIFE IS HEEERE!
C'MON, YOU TWO. COME ON IN!
OH! SHIROU-KUN, IS THIS YOUR...? NO WAY! SHE'S A REAL BEAUTY!
Bow
Welcome!

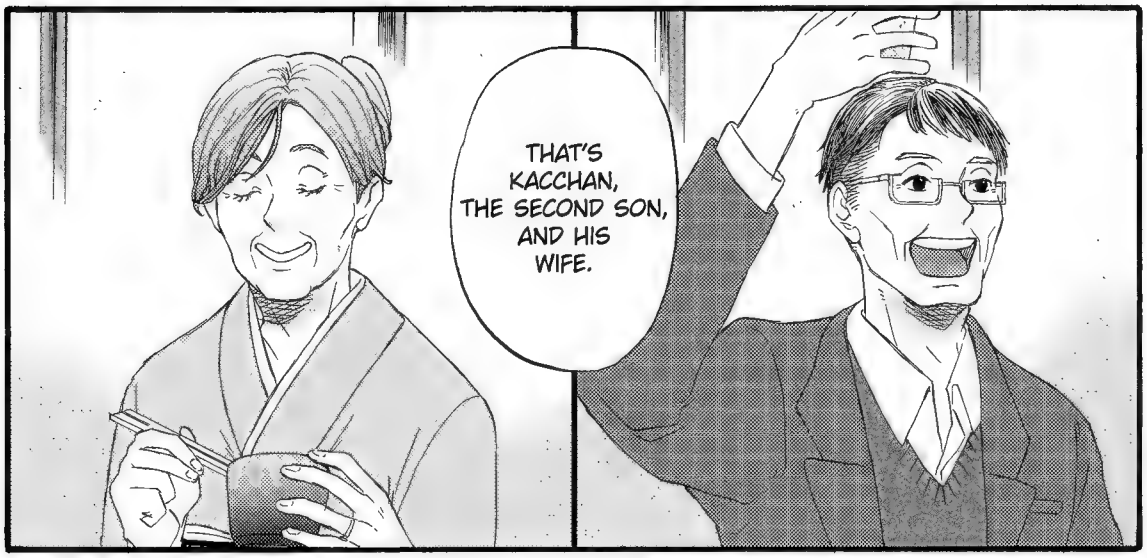


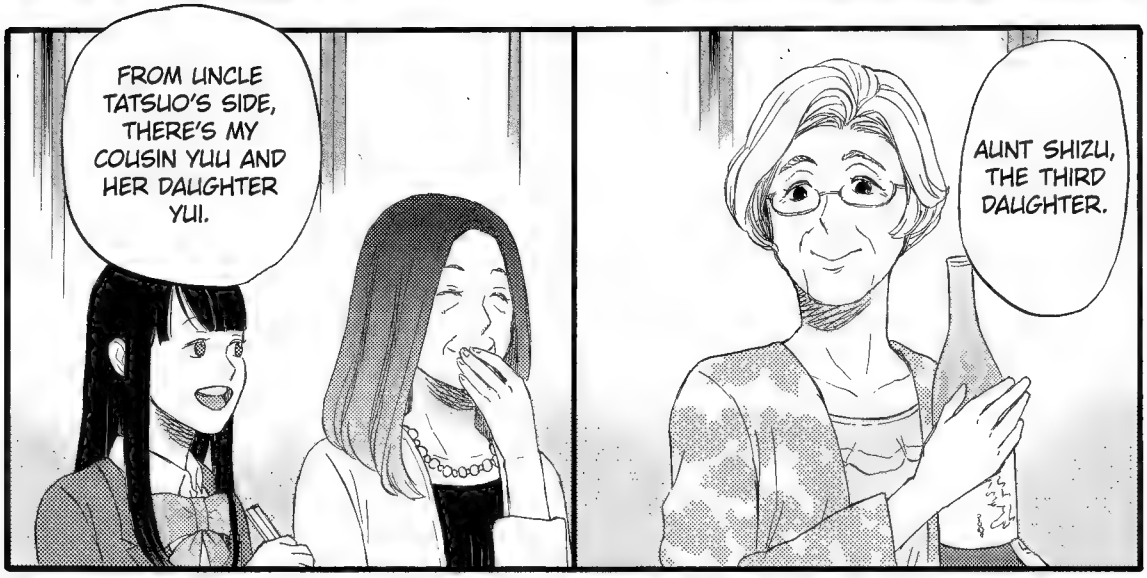
SISTER MOTHER FATHER

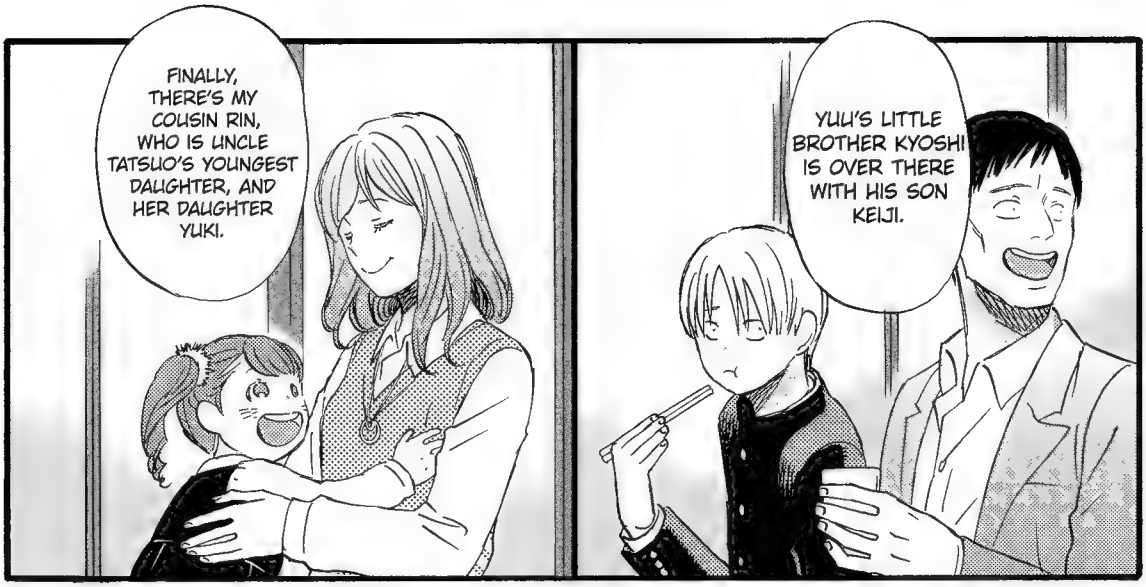


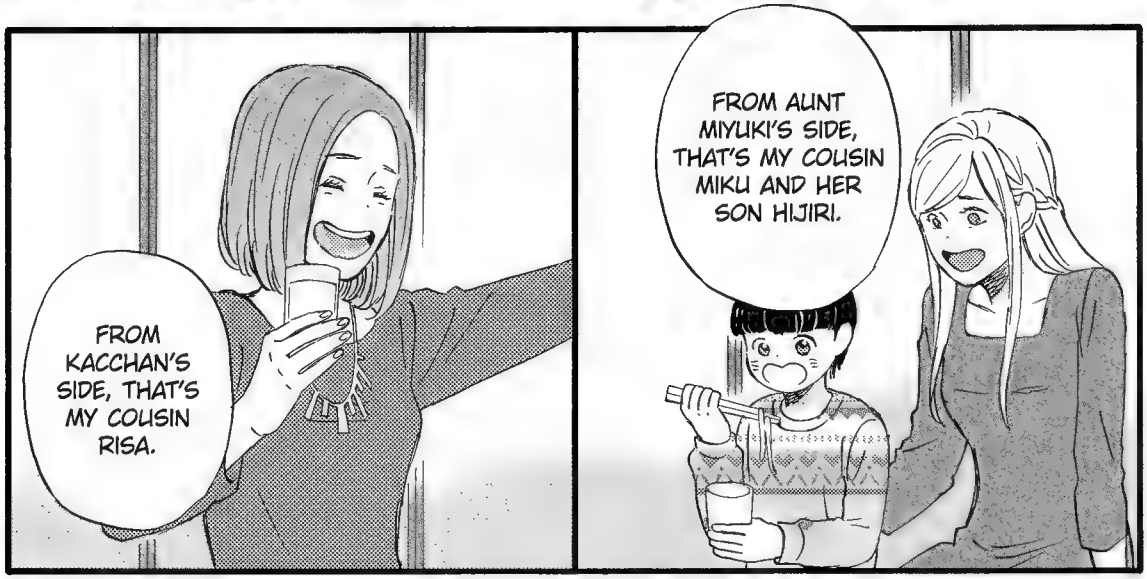


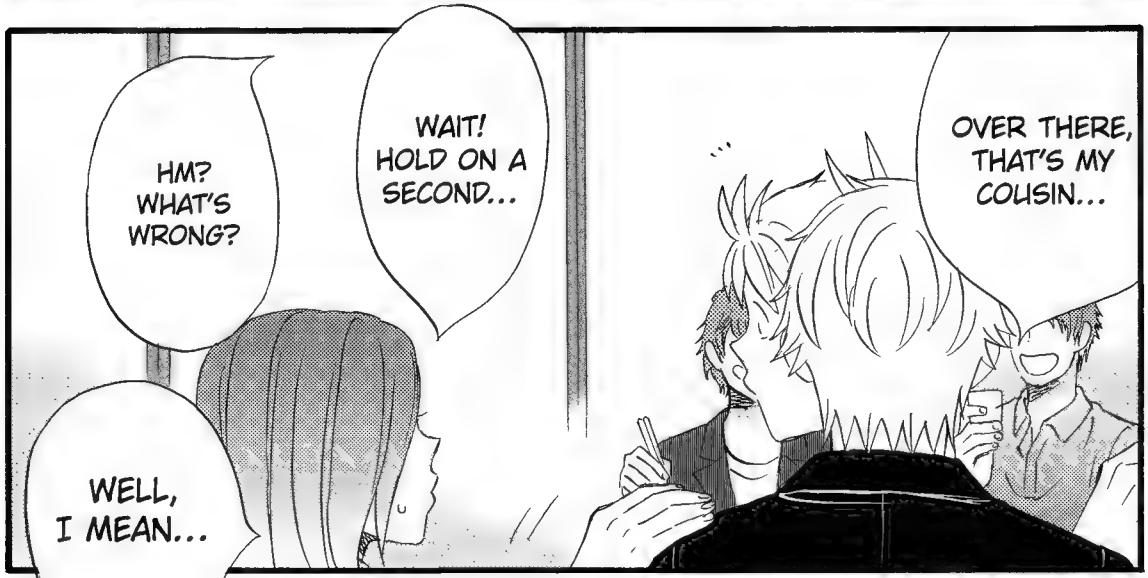

OVER THERE IS AUNT MIYUKI, THE ELDEST DAUGHTER, AND HER HUSBAND.


THAT'S KACCHAN, THE SECOND SON, AND HIS WIFE.


FROM UNCLE TATSUO'S SIDE, THERE'S MY COUSIN YUU AND HER DAUGHTER YUI.
AUNT SHIZU, THE THIRD DAUGHTER.

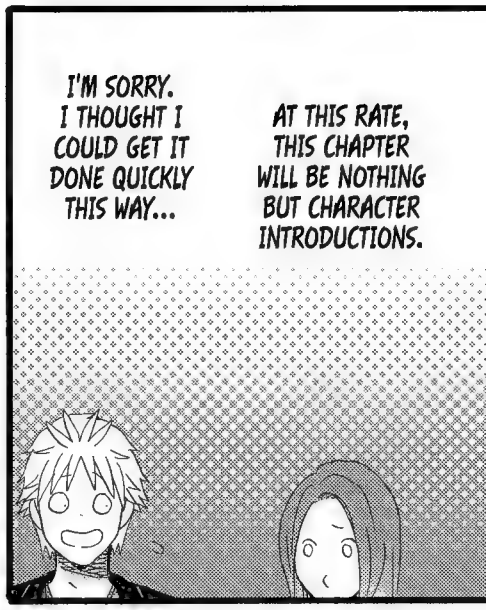

FINALLY, THERE'S MY COUSIN RIN, WHO IS UNCLE TATSUO'S YOUNGEST DAUGHTER, AND HER DAUGHTER YUKI.
YUU'S LITTLE BROTHER KYOSHI IS OVER THERE WITH HIS SON KEIJI.


FROM KACCHAN'S SIDE, THAT'S MY COUSIN RISA.
FROM AUNT MIYUKI'S SIDE, THAT'S MY COUSIN MIKU AND HER SON HIJIRI.


HM? WHAT'S WRONG?
WAIT! HOLD ON A SECOND...
WELL, I MEAN...
OVER THERE, THAT'S MY COUSIN...

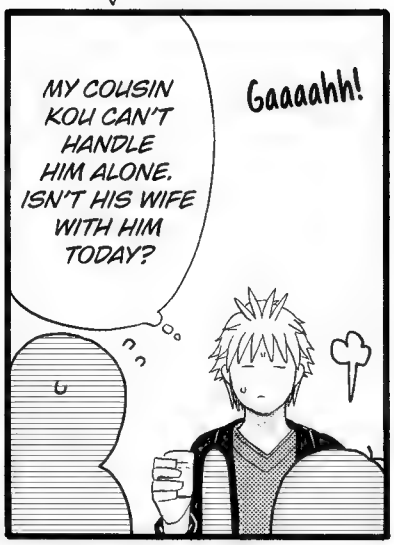
ARE YOU GOING TO INTRODUCE EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM?

WHEN I SEE THOSE BOXES, I FEEL LIKE WE'RE IN A DETECTIVE MANGA WHERE A MURDER IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE...
Like this!
IN SUCH CASES, USE THESE SMALL BOXES THAT LOOK LIKE NAME TAGS INSTEAD. IT'S MORE EFFICIENT.
KIRISHIMA SHIROU
ISHIMURA AI


I'M SORRY. I THOUGHT I COULD GET IT DONE QUICKLY THIS WAY...
AT THIS RATE, THIS CHAPTER WILL BE NOTHING BUT CHARACTER INTRODUCTIONS.

HEY, KEISUKE! BEHAVE YOURSELF!
DON'T WANNAAA!!!

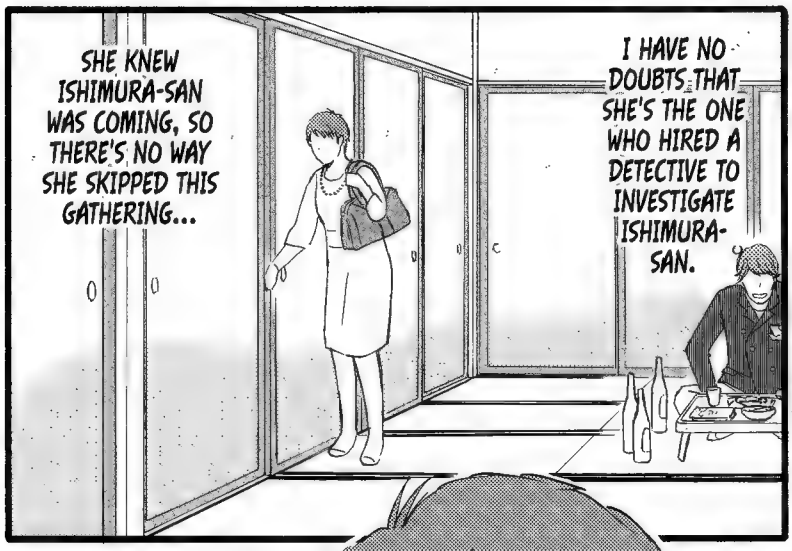
CHATTER
CHATTER
...BUT WELL, SHE HAS A POINT.
Ha ha ha!


MY COUSIN KOU CAN'T HANDLE HIM ALONE. ISN'T HIS WIFE WITH HIM TODAY?
Gaaaahh!

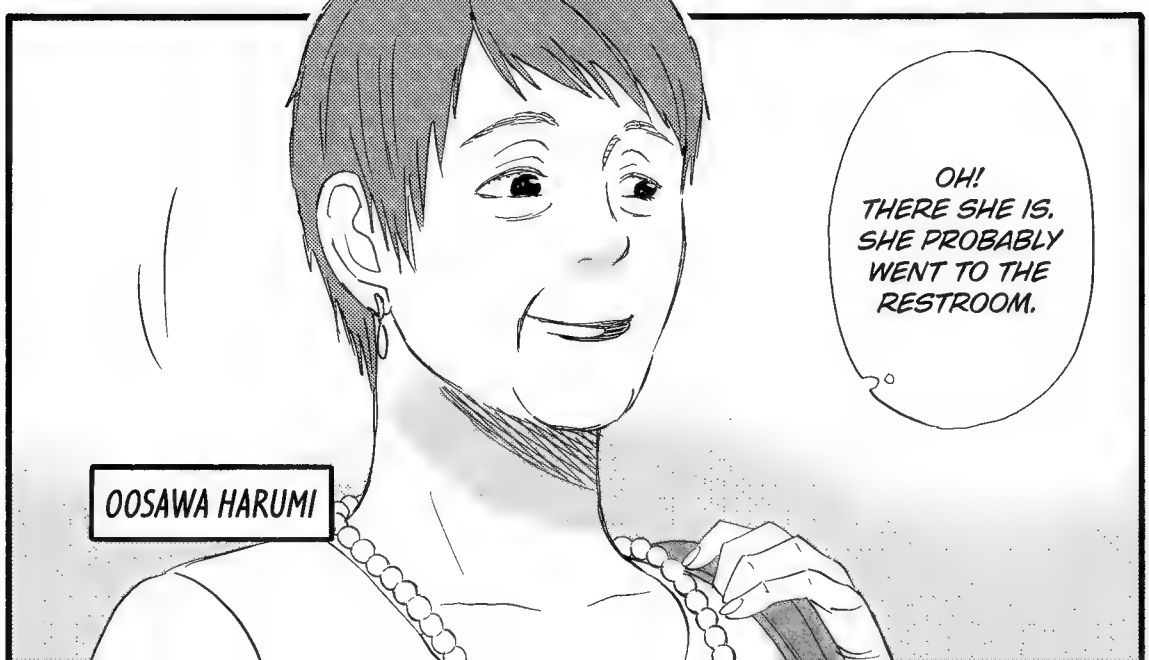
WHOA... THAT KEISUKE IS THE SAME AS ALWAYS...
Don't wanna...!
Stop playing with your food...
KIRISHIMA KEISUKE
KIRISHIMA KOUJI

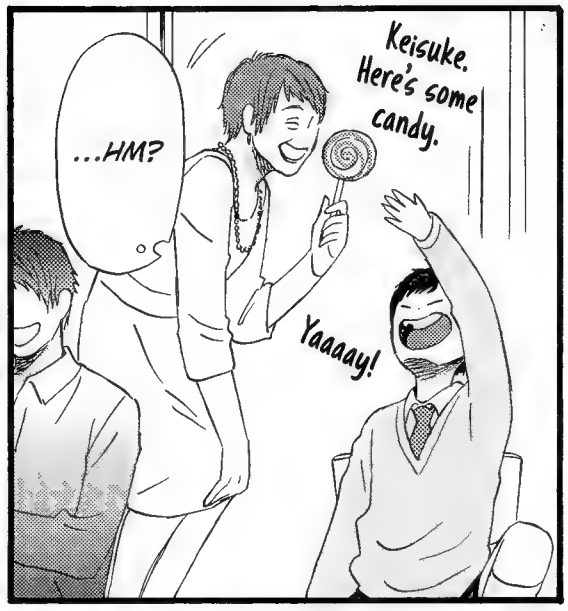
HE KNOWS THE ADULTS WON'T DO ANYTHING BECAUSE HE'S A KID, SO HE MAKES THE BEST OF THE SITUATION.
Don't wanna!
SERIOUSLY... HE'S WAY TOO CHEEKY.
GOD, I HATE THAT BRAT.
Don't wannaaa!
Don't wanna!

IT'S PROBABLY THE KIND OF LAX PARENTING IN WHICH THEY NEVER SCOLD THE KID. BUT HONESTLY... I DON'T THINK LETTING HIM RUN WILD LIKE THIS WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING IS A GOOD IDEA.
WELL... EVEN IF SHE WAS HERE, I DOUBT SHE COULD STOP THAT KID.


SHE KNEW ISHIMURA-SAN WAS COMING, SO THERE'S NO WAY SHE SKIPPED THIS GATHERING...
I HAVE NO DOUBTS THAT SHE'S THE ONE WHO HIRED A DETECTIVE TO INVESTIGATE ISHIMURA-SAN.

ANYWAY... ISN'T AUNT HARUMI HERE...?
Glance...

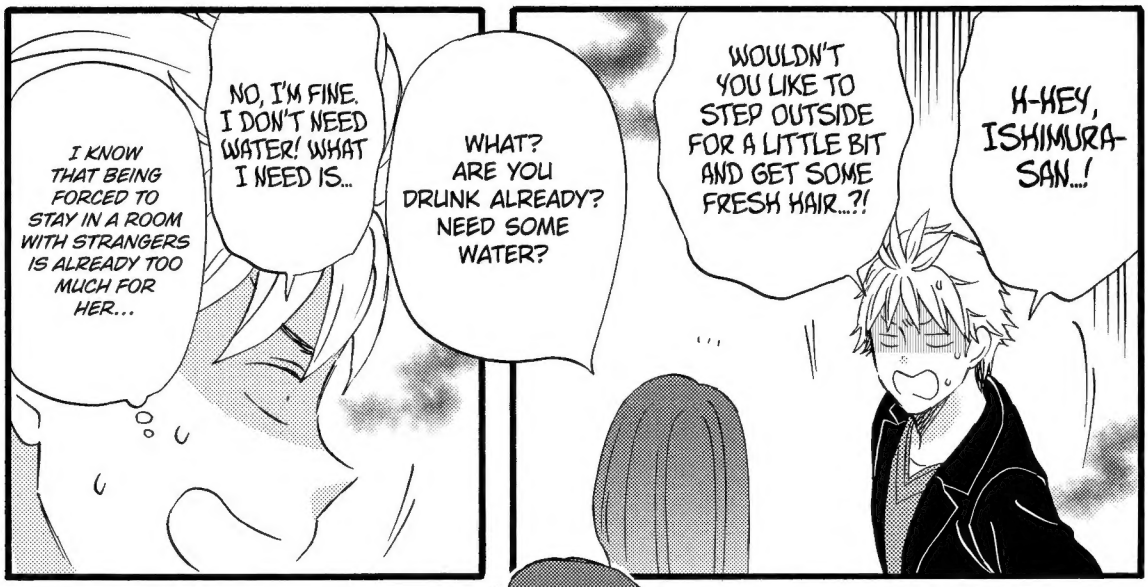

OH! THERE SHE IS. SHE PROBABLY WENT TO THE RESTROOM.
OOSAWA HARUMI



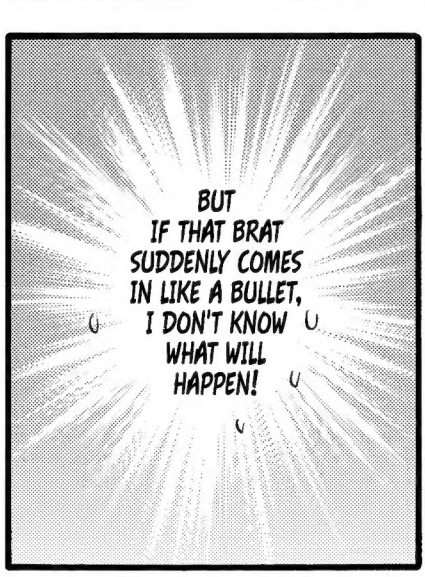
MY OTHER RELATIVES CAN'T HANDLE KEISUKE, BUT AUNT HARUMI HAS HIM COMPLETELY UNDER CONTROL. SHE'S TERRIFYING...!

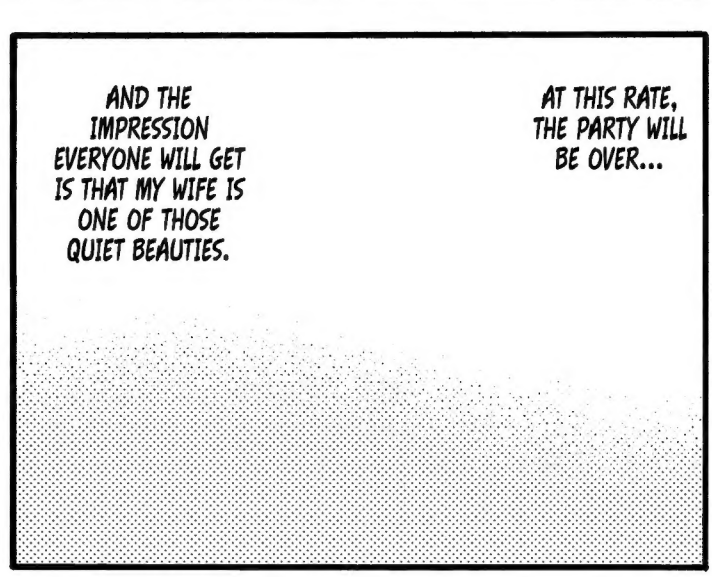
WORSE, IT'S THAT GODDAMN BRAT!

WHOA... SHE SENT AN ASSASSIN AFTER US!

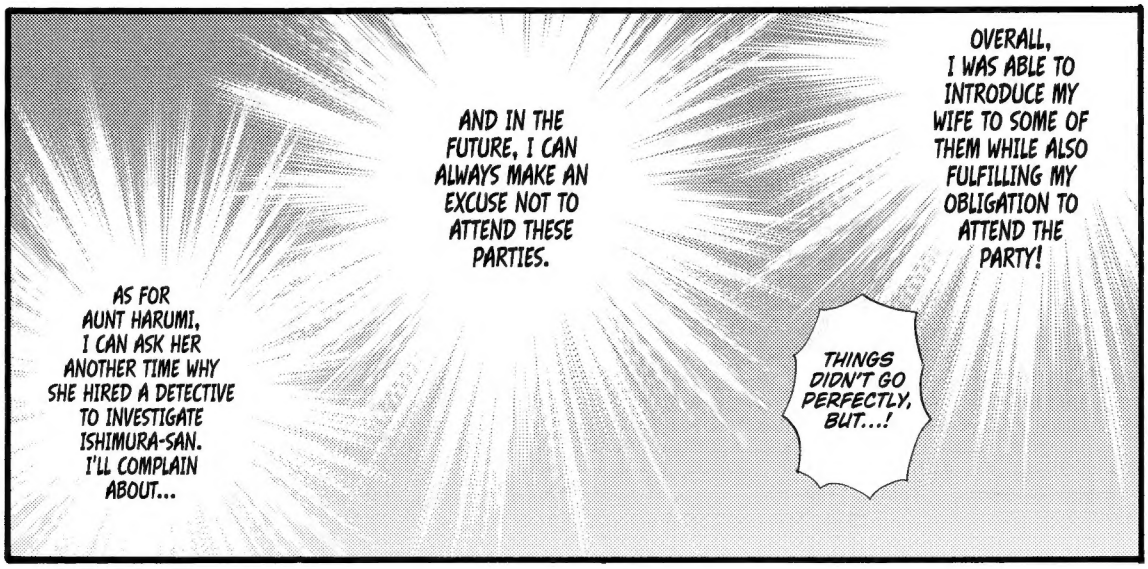

I KNOW THAT BEING FORCED TO STAY IN A ROOM WITH STRANGERS IS ALREADY TOO MUCH FOR HER...
NO, I'M FINE. I DON'T NEED WATER! WHAT I NEED IS...
WHAT? ARE YOU DRUNK ALREADY? NEED SOME WATER?
WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO STEP OUTSIDE FOR A LITTLE BIT AND GET SOME FRESH HAIR...?!
H-HEY, ISHIMURA-SAN...!

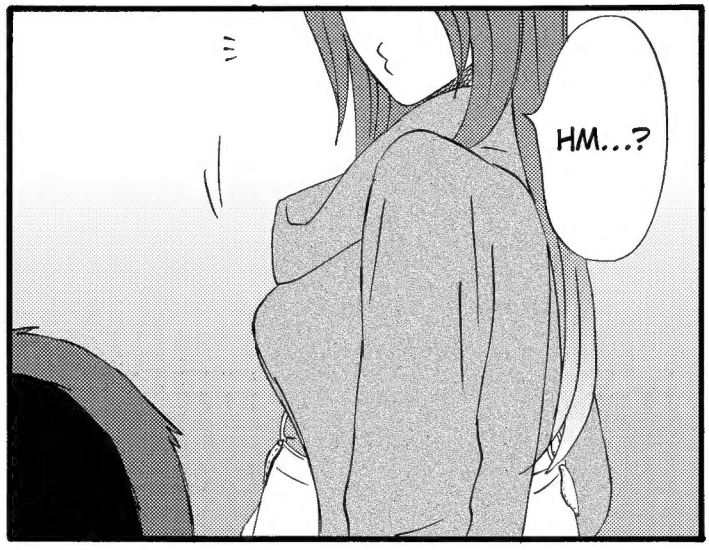
SO FAR, ISHIMURA-SAN HAS GOTTEN BY WITH SAFE, TEMPLATE-LIKE GREETINGS.
What's the matter, all of a sudden...?
STILL, I MANAGED TO QUICKLY INTRODUCE HER TO SOME OF MY RELATIVES A LITTLE WHILE AGO, AND...


BUT IF THAT BRAT SUDDENLY COMES IN LIKE A BULLET, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN!

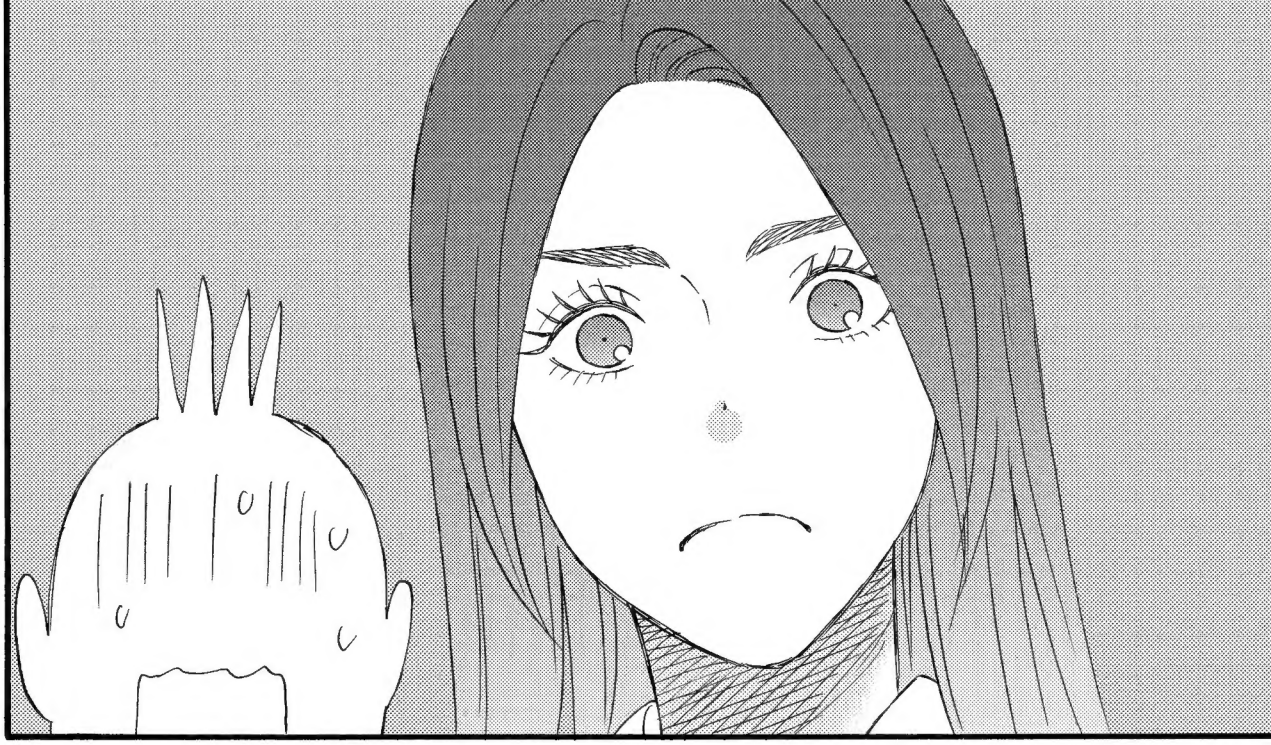

AND THE IMPRESSION EVERYONE WILL GET IS THAT MY WIFE IS ONE OF THOSE QUIET BEAUTIES.
AT THIS RATE, THE PARTY WILL BE OVER...

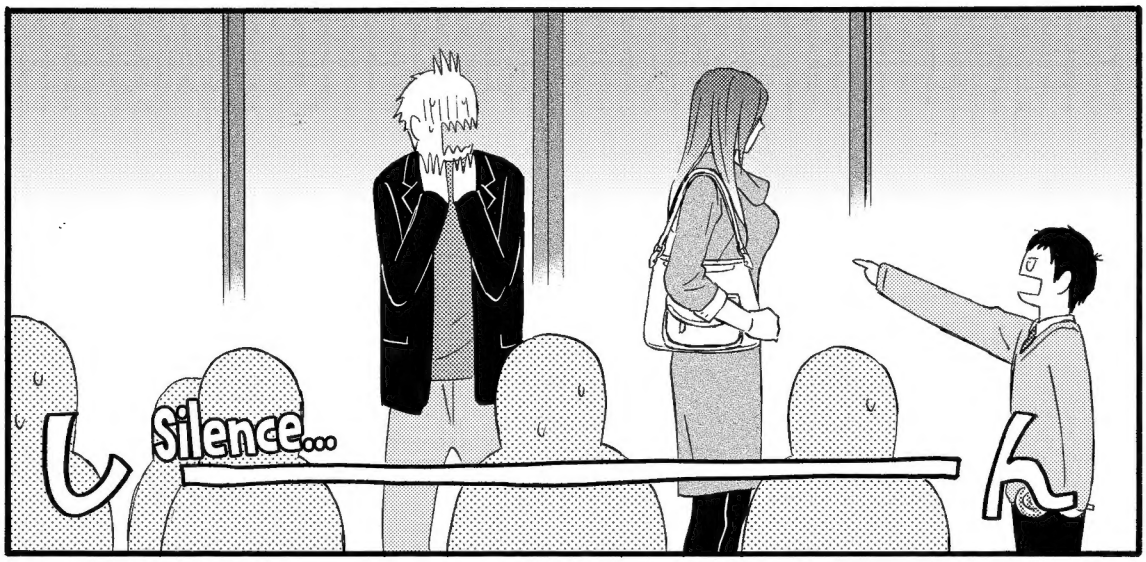
IF I PRETEND THAT I'VE HAD A BIT TOO MUCH TO DRINK AND DON'T FEEL VERY WELL... THEY MIGHT LET ME GO HOME!!
OH. SHIROU COULDN'T HOLD HIS LIQUOR AND WAS FEELING SICK.
HE SAYS HE'S SORRY, BUT HE NEEDS TO GO HOME.
OH, DEAR ...
That's a pity...
MOTHER

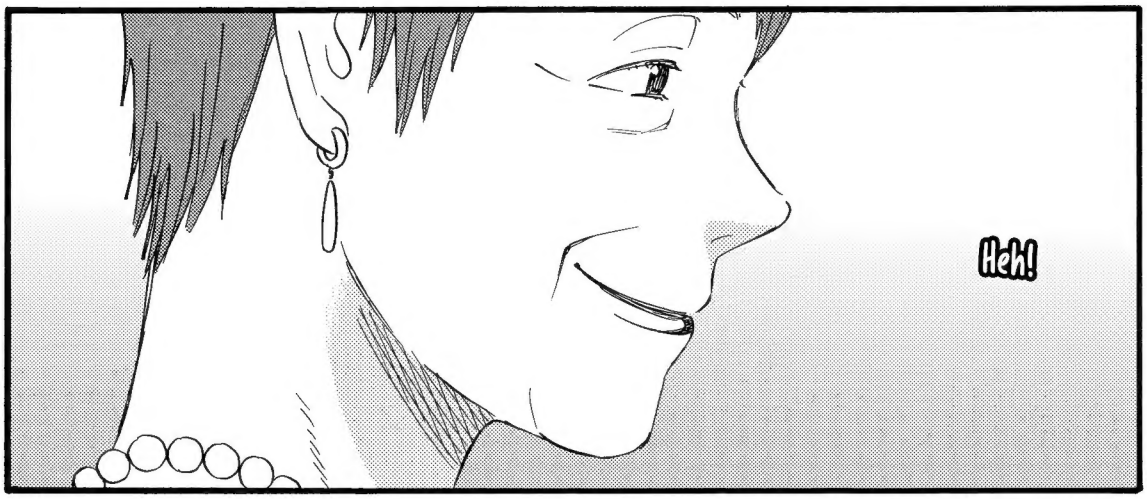

OVERALL, I WAS ABLE TO INTRODUCE MY WIFE TO SOME OF THEM WHILE ALSO FULFILLING MY OBLIGATION TO ATTEND THE PARTY!
AND IN THE FUTURE, I CAN ALWAYS MAKE AN EXCUSE NOT TO ATTEND THESE PARTIES.
AS FOR AUNT HARUMI, I CAN ASK HER ANOTHER TIME WHY SHE HIRED A DETECTIVE TO INVESTIGATE ISHIMURA-SAN. I'LL COMPLAIN ABOUT...
THINGS DIDN'T GO PERFECTLY, BUT...!


HM...?

WOOOW! YOUR BOOBS ARE HUGE!!!




Silence...


Heh!